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Security Council

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Letter dated 5 May 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to the West African subregion from 15 to 23 May 2003. The members have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission, a copy of which is enclosed herewith (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
President of the Security Council

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Annex

Security Council mission to West Africa: objectives

Regional

- Demonstrate continuing Security Council interest in the subregion
- Encourage more cooperation among countries of the subregion (e.g., the Mano River Union and ECOWAS); assess follow-up to the Rabat Summit; and identify any obstacles to improved cooperation
- Review the activities of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa
- Examine the links between the conflicts in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone and their impact on neighbouring countries (including mercenaries, arms trafficking and refugees)
- Assess progress towards Council objectives on the protection of civilians and children affected by armed conflict
- Emphasize the need for all countries to respect their obligations with regard to human rights and international humanitarian law

Sierra Leone

- Assess the success of UNAMSIL in building security in Sierra Leone and its impact on the protection of civilians
- Assess progress in the UNAMSIL drawdown and the ability of the Sierra Leone police and armed forces to provide security as it withdraws
- Assess the transition from peacekeeping to longer-term development
- Examine how the Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are addressing justice and reconciliation

Liberia

- Urge the Government of Liberia, LURD and any other armed rebel groups to engage in ceasefire negotiations and to implement Security Council resolutions
- Call on the Government of Liberia to enhance its cooperation with neighbouring countries
- Assess how the Government has responded to the Council's proposals for resolving the crisis, including an assessment of the chances of free and fair elections
- Assess the impact and effectiveness of UNOL, how it works with the operational parts of the United Nations country team, and the Government of Liberia's expectations of its new mandate

Côte d'Ivoire

- Urge all parties to respect fully all the provisions of the ceasefire

- Urge the Government and all the parties to implement fully the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement
- Discuss with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Albert Tevoedjre, progress with the United Nations mission in Côte d'Ivoire
- Emphasize the need for respect for human rights by all parties
- Consider how to tackle the problem of insecurity in western Côte d'Ivoire

Guinea-Bissau

- Urge the Government and President Kumba Yalá to ensure that the forthcoming elections are conducted in a transparent, fair and credible manner, and to take the necessary confidence-building steps required of them
- Urge the Government to endorse the partnership approach defined by the ad hoc advisory group of the Economic and Social Council